

Maryland Numismatist



Kossuth, the Washington of Hungary



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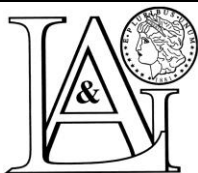
President's Message

The first issue of the *Maryland Numismatist* for 2014 is also my first as President of MSNA. It is an honor to be MSNA President and I hope I can do as well as my predecessors. Speaking of my predecessor, I would like to thank Frank Murphy for his stewardship of this organization the last two years. Frank's dedication to MSNA is something to admire.



New years always begin a flurry of coin shows. I had attended the Florida United Numismatist show in Orlando to represent MSNA at their annual meeting. During a meeting of member clubs I was able to speak with representatives from other regional clubs to discuss their relationship with their member clubs. Nearly everyone I spoke with acknowledged that numismatics was in transition. As the baby-boomer generation fully becomes AARP eligible, everyone recognizes that younger members are needed to keep the hobby alive. But to meet the hobby needs of Generation X and the Millennials, we are going to have to change. How to change is still being discussed.

The ANA is trying to lead the discussion by upgrading its technology so that it can attract the Gen Xers and Millennials. Since I work with the ANA on their Technology Committee, I hope to bring those lessons learned to Maryland. Until we can learn those lessons, I want to hear what we can learn from each other. If you have ideas, questions, or concerns about the future, please feel free to write to me at scott@barman.ws. This will help shape MSNA for the future and will show what we at MSNA can do to help our member clubs.



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Schenkman to Speak in Baltimore

The sixth speaker in the Maryland State Numismatic Association (MSNA) annual Distinguished Lecturer series will be David E. Schenkman, a highly respected numismatist researcher, and a recognized authority on U.S. tokens.

Dave started collecting coins in 1949 and by the mid-1950s, while still in high school, was a serious collector of early U.S. coins. In 1960, he became interested in U.S. tokens and has specialized in them ever since. For many years he made a living as a professional numismatist and also as the owner of a company that published and sold numismatic books.



Dave is the author of eight books, each of which is considered a standard reference. He has written more than 100 columns for *The Numismatist*, and numerous articles for other publications. His literary efforts have earned him 24 literary and cataloging awards from the Token and Medal Society, including eight gold Franklin Mint/Segal awards (the only person to win this award more than twice). He is also the recipient of the ANA's Heath Literary Award and the Wayte & Olga Raymond Memorial Literary Award. The Token and Medal Society's highest literary award is now a medal bearing his name. He served as editor for the Token and Medal Society's publications for 27 years, and as publications editor for the Civil War Token Society for five years. He is past president of both organizations. He is a contributing editor to *The Numismatist*.

He served as an instructor at the American Numismatic Association's Summer Seminar for 18 years, teaching courses in U.S. Tokens and Civil War Era Numismatics. He is the recipient of the ANA's Glen Smedley award, the Medal Merit, the Lifetime Achievement award, and their highest honor, the Farran Zerbe award.

Dave's lecture title is "Collecting by the Numbers: a Look at Trade Token Denominations". It will be presented at 1 PM on Friday, June 28, 2014 in room 301 of the Baltimore Convention Center during the Whitman Coin Expo.



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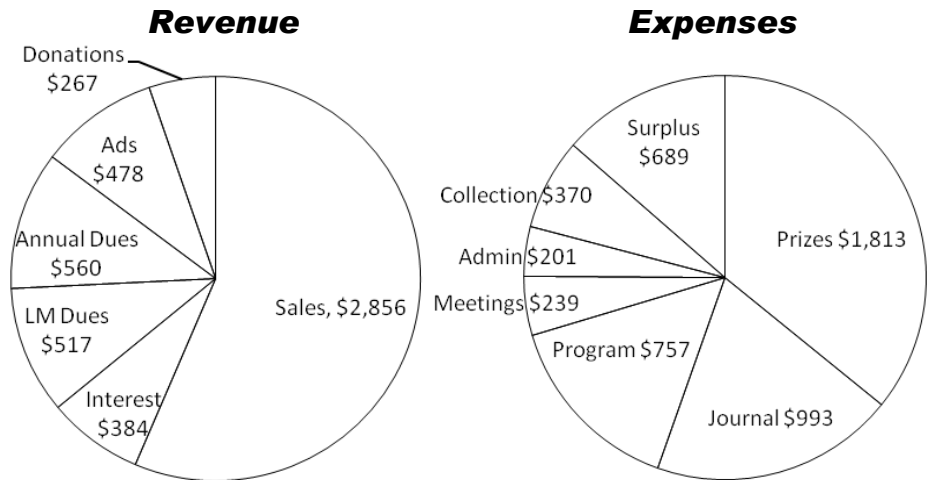
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Treasury Notes by Simcha Kuritzky, Treasurer and Editor

Below are two pie charts that show our results for fiscal year 2013 (ended November 30). We anticipate earning less interest in 2014.



Each circle represents the same number of dollars; because we had more revenue than expense, the difference is shown as a surplus near the top of the expenses pie chart. The biggest change from last year was in interest; in 2012 we took advantage of special offers which earned substantial bonuses. The largest impact of using accrual versus cash basis of accounting is on life memberships--revenues earned for life membership are from payments received years ago, so regular dues and life membership dues are shown separately. Sales are primarily of raffle tickets. Prize expense includes raffle and exhibit, while door prizes are included under meetings. Gold prices have gone down enough to save us some money, but not enough for us to restore the old prizes for exhibits and the raffle. Program expense includes the Distinguished Lecturer honorarium and honorary life membership. Expenses associated with the John Henry collection include the safe deposit box rental and insurance; 2013 was the first full year of our insurance coverage. Our regular meeting space at Grace United Methodist Church in Baltimore has substantially raised our rent, so we've held fewer meetings overall and held some at the BANC show or the Whitman Coin Expo.

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Keefer's Tavern

By Paul Belschner

Keefer's was a neighborhood tavern located in the Jardenville area of Baltimore dating from the 1930's. I actually used these tokens and can supply some history. My aunt's mother, Mrs. Wood, purchased this tavern from Mr. Keefer in the mid-1950's and changed the name to Wood's Tavern. Mrs. Wood continued the policy initiated by Mr. Keefer to keep it a stag bar (women were not allowed in the bar area) and she continued to use the Keefer tokens at the bar. I was discharged from the Air Force in 1964 and patronized Wood's. Free drinks were not offered to regulars at the bar, a different policy from other neighborhood taverns. Being a regular customer you would receive one or more tokens along with your change. These were only good at the bar and could be used for additional drinks or food. In this era, a bottle of local beer (e.g., American, National, Arrow) was 25 cents. Premium beers (e.g., Bud, Schlitz, Miller) were 30 cents, and a 10 ounce draft was 15 cents.

Being a Stag Bar didn't keep the ladies away. A side walkway was marked LADIES' ENTRANCE leading to the rear of the tavern where tables were located. Local women could enjoy a beer, high-ball, and food. It was also popular with men bringing their wife or girlfriend for some refreshment. There was no political correctness in the 1960's and a stag bar was part of life. Ladies who wanted to sit at the bar could choose to patronize other taverns. The only woman allowed at Wood's bar was the rear waitress bringing food to a bar customer.

Work transferred me from Baltimore in 1967 and Mrs. Wood passed away shortly afterwards. The tavern was sold and the name changed to Lett's Tavern. It was still a popular bar until a few years ago when a changing neighborhood forced it to close. It is now a vacant building.



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Lajos Kossuth and His Hungarian Note Issues

by Kenneth E. Swab

[Based on articles from Feb. 27 & March 5, 1996 Numismatic News]

Hungarian Fund: every collector of United States obsolete notes has come across notes with this inscription. The Hungarian Fund notes are dated 1852 and are usually found in dealers' stocks of notes from New York City. They are one of the most common obsolete notes available and uncirculated notes can be had for a little as ten dollars. But behind these notes is the story of revolution and an extraordinary man, Lajos (Louis) Kossuth. It is a story that starts 4,400 miles east of New York and four years earlier.

January, 1848 brought the first of the revolutions which were to rock Europe. On January 12, the citizens of Palermo, Sicily, broke into open rebellion against Ferdinand II. Within months, riots for reform, democracy and independence followed in other Italian cities. Then Paris burst into revolt on February 22, leading to the establishment of France's Second Republic. The German states soon followed with unrest of their own. These events were of concern to the Austrian Empire in central Europe, controlled by the Hapsburg monarchy. The Hapsburg Empire stretched from the northern Italian provinces of Lombardy and Venetia in the west to parts of modern Ukraine in the east, and from Bohemia (in the current Czech Republic) in the north to a military border region facing the Ottoman Empire in current Bosnia and Serbia in the south. Besides sprawling geographically across the center of Europe, the Austrian Empire contained at least a dozen nationalities, speaking a variety of languages, and spread over eight kingdoms and eight duchies.

Hungary was somewhat of an aberration in the Austrian Empire. In 1723, in return for protection from the Ottomans, Hungary agreed to permit the Crown of St. Stephen to pass to the Hapsburgs. In return, the Emperor had to go to Hungary to be crowned as King of Hungary and swear to respect the elected Hungarian Diet's privileges. Those privileges included the right to initiate tax bills and enact laws which put Hungary on a collision course with the absolutist Habsburgs.

The lawyer Lajos Kossuth first came to the attention of fellow Hungarians in 1826 when, at the age of 24, he spoke out in a county assembly against the King's attempt to raise taxes on his own. Faced with Hungarian defiance, the King gave in and summoned the Diet.

In 1833, Kossuth was sent to the Hungarian Diet as an absentees' deputy--someone who attended the Diet in place of an elected noble. Hungary had no freedom of the press--permission from the King was required to own a printing press--so the Diet's debates were not publicized. Kossuth wrote reports of the meetings and sent them to his friends. Soon he hired others to hand copy his reports and began to sell subscriptions. His reports, written with a decidedly liberal bent, were passed from hand to hand until they wore out.

When the King dissolved the Diet in 1836, Kossuth moved to Pest and began an even more militantly liberal manuscript journal. Finally the authorities had had enough, and they confiscated the journal and arrested Kossuth, making him a national martyr and hero. Widespread protests led to his release in 1840, and he resumed his publishing career this time with a printing press as the Austrian authorities tried some modest reforms to placate liberals.

Kossuth was more of a Magyar nationalist than a social liberal and he unwittingly planted the seeds for the destruction of Hungarian independence. He argued for the replacement of Latin with Magyar as the official language of Hungary. While this provided ethnic Hungarians with a sense of independence from imperial Austrian rule, it also frightened the Croats and Slavs in Hungary who feared Magyar, more than the German Hapsburg, domination. His statements that the Slavs, Germans and Transylvanian Romanians must be culturally assimilated into the Magyar language worried those groups.

As pressure for reform grew, Prince Metternich, in his seventies but still in control for the half-witted King Ferdinand, called for a new Hungarian Diet. The Diet opened in November 1847 and Metternich planned to preempt Kossuth and the liberals with his own progressive reforms. Kossuth was the leader of the Opposition; he was an extraordinary orator and his energy was indefatigable.

Events now began to outrun Metternich. The unrest that had begun in January in Sicily reached Vienna, the capital of the Austrian Empire, at the beginning of March, 1848. Workers who had been earning as little as 50 cents a week lost their jobs, food prices skyrocketed, and people rushed to convert government paper bills into specie.

Kossuth took rapid advantage of the Austrian crisis. He demanded a separate Hungarian financial system and other financial and fiscal reforms and coupled these with political demands amounting to

Hungarian autonomy within the Austrian Empire. Ferdinand gave in to the demands.



Photo from the Standard Catalog of World Paper Money

Kossuth became the Finance Minister in April. He found a depleted Treasury and took swift steps to deal with the fiscal crisis facing the new Hungarian government (although it was still part of the Austrian Empire). Part of his efforts consisted of an attempt to raise five million silver florins (forints) through the issuance of 50, 100 and 500 forint Kamatos Utalvány (interest-bearing legal tender treasury bills). The silver

thus raised was to be used to back the issuance of 12.5 million forints of banknotes. The notes were issued for six month terms at 5% interest, with interest rate tables on the back (Pick catalog S101-109). All notes were printed with black ink, with various colors of overprinting. Notes S101-103 were 232x130mm and were issued without coupons. The second issue were for 12 month loans and were the same height as the first issue, but consisted of a note 185mm long and an interest coupon 47mm long which was to be removed after six months. The notes were issued under the authority of the Finance Minister (Kossuth), but bore the signatures of the Cashier-in-Chief and the State Controller. Attempts to sell the notes were largely a failure, and that, perhaps, contributed to the notes being rare today.

In August, Kossuth began to issue four million forints in banknotes under the auspices of the Magyar Kereskendelmi (Commercial) Bank. This suggests that the sale of the treasury bills brought in only about 1.6 million forints in silver, less than 40% of the five million he had hoped to raise. The first notes issued were two forint notes (S112) redeemable in silver and placed into circulation on August 8, 1848. They had red underprint of the obverse and green underprint on the reverse. Kossuth's

Austria regarded the notes as unconstitutional and prohibited their use in Austria. Kossuth retaliated by declaring that Austrian one and two gulden notes were unacceptable in Hungary. (Due to the polyglot nature of the Austrian Empire, the same denominations had different names, and gulden was the German language equivalent of the Hungarian forint.)

In October, Kossuth released the one forint notes (S111) into circulation. Like the two forint notes, they were redeemable in silver, have the same signatures, and are undated. The one forint notes had brown-gray underprint with black lettering.



Meanwhile, the Austrians were intent upon regaining control of Hungary. On September 11, an army of Croatian soldiers, under service to the Hapsburgs, crossed into Hungary. A Hungarian army shadowed it, uncertain and unwilling to attack, since the confused political situation still had Hungary as part of the Austrian Empire. Finally, on September 29, the Hungarian forces blocked the path to Buda and Pest, and repulsed an attack by the Imperial-Royal Croatian army. That army then turned east to Vienna, where it assisted in ousting the liberals from power at the end of October. The Hungarians first stood by, and then started to aid the Viennese liberals, only to arrive too late.

Kossuth was busy on the monetary front during this period. On September 6, 1848, he placed into circulation 5 forint notes (dated September 1, 1848) to be financed by a 61 million forint Hungarian government loan. The notes (S116) bear Kossuth's printed signature as Minister of Finance. They come in two variations: S116a has a red-brown face color, and S116b has a brown face color. The reverses of both varieties have green text on a dark pink underprint. Both varieties are common.



On October 22, 100 forint notes (S118), also dated September 1, 1848 and signed with Kossuth's printed signature were placed in circulation. The notes have black inscriptions with gray underprint on white paper. Reflecting the polyglot nature of Hungary, the Ft. 5 and Ft. 100 notes carry the obverse denomination and the inscriptions on the reverse in five languages: Magyar, German, Slovenian, Bosnian, and Russian.

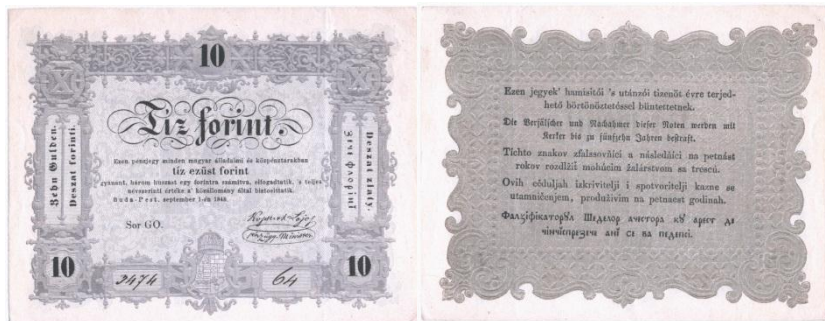
In Vienna, the monarchists began to consolidate their authority and turn their attention to regaining control over Hungary. In December, Austrian troops entered Hungary from three directions, and Kossuth and the Hungarian Assembly evacuated Pest for Debrecen, 140 miles to the east, on December 31, 1848.

Perhaps but for Kossuth and a handful of others, the Hungarian saga would have ended then. In January, the British Ambassador reported home that: "the resistance of the insurgents . . . can be of no very long duration." However, in Debrecen Kossuth had traded the Finance Minister post for Chairman of the National Defense Committee. The Hungarian armies regrouped, and in a brilliant winter campaign, soon had the Austrian forces reeling backward.



The Hungarian government was faced with a shortage of small change, and tried to meet it by issuing two denominations of fractional Treasury notes while at Debrecen. Both were dated January 1, 1849 and carried the printed signature of Ferenc Völgyi, whose signature also appears on

the notes issued the previous year by the Magyar Kereskendelmi Bank. The 30 krajczar ($\frac{1}{2}$ forint) notes had grey underprint with black lettering, and were placed into circulation on January 26, 1849 (S122). The 15 krajczar ($\frac{1}{4}$ forint) notes, with black lettering on a red underprint, were placed into circulation on February 15, 1849 (S121).



On March 24, the last of the three denominations of State notes, 10 forint notes (S117) were released in Debrecen. Like the 5- and 100- forint notes, the notes carried the signature of Kossuth and were dated September 1, 1848. The notes consist of black printing, with a grey underprint on the front and a dull olive underprint on the reverse.

On April 14, 1849, with Hungarian forces approaching Pest, and the Austrians in retreat, Kossuth proclaimed Hungarian independence. Nine days later, Hungarian troops re-entered Buda and Pest to great patriotic celebration. Kossuth became Governor of independent Hungary. Independence was to be short lived. In May, Austrian forces were placed under the command of the fearsome Baron Julius Haynau, already known as "The Hyena of Brescia" for ordering the flogging of Italian women while he was fighting in the Italian campaign. Czar Nicholas of Russia agreed to provide Russian troops to Austria, and the first of 200,000 Russian soldiers marched into Hungary on June 17, 1849.

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With its forces in retreat, the independent Hungarian government was hard pressed for cash. Its last attempt to raise funds in Buda-Pest had only brought in half a million forints, and 60 million forints were needed for the war effort. Kossuth and the Hungarian Parliament fled southeast, pursued by Haynau. Meeting in Szeged between July 21 and 28, Parliament authorized the issuance of more notes. On September 26 2-forint notes (S126a) dated July 1, 1849 and bearing Kossuth's signature as Governor and Ferenc Duschek as Minister of Finance were printed at Szeged and put into circulation. These notes showed a new Hungarian coat of arms without a crown, showing that Hungary had ceased to be a kingdom in the Austrian Empire. Two days later the government fled east to Arad, and on August 2, Haynau and his troops entered Szeged.



At Arad the Hungarian government issued its last notes during the first week of August, 1849. Two forint notes (S126b), similar to those issued at Szeged, were issued. The notes carry the facsimile signatures of Kossuth as Governor and Bertalan Szemere as Prime Minister and are dated July 1, 1849 at Budapest. Ten-forint notes (S127) were also issued with the same signatures and date. Both are printed on white paper with black ink and are rare.

On August 17, 1849, Kossuth crossed the Danube River at Orsova into Turkey where he was placed in an internment camp with thousands of other Hungarian refugees. The last Hungarian forces at the fortress of Komarom held out until the beginning of October before lowering the free Hungarian flag under a negotiated surrender. (Various denominations of siege notes were issued by the Hungarian forces.) Independent Hungary was no more.

With Hungarian resistance crushed, General Julius Haynau went about extracting retribution on Hungary by hanging rebel leaders, sending thousands more to prisons to serve ten- and twenty-year terms wearing

chains, and impressing at least 50,000 Hungarians into the ranks of the Austrian army. He also resumed his practice, which he had begun fighting the revolt in Italy, of having women who spoke to rebels publicly stripped and flogged. Haynau added financial retribution to his arsenal as well. He ruled that Austrian officers could tender Kossuth's notes for payment, but that Hungarian subjects could not. In effect, he forced Hungarian merchants to redeem Hungary's now-worthless currency, but only for the benefit of his army's officers.

Kossuth was warmly greeted by Turkish officials. When the Austrian government demanded that Kossuth and the others who had fled with him be returned, the Sultan's responded that Islam required him to grant mercy to anyone who requested it. When Austria and Russia threatened war, British warships sailed through the Dardanelles in a show of support for Turkey's position.

Kossuth continued to agitate for Hungarian independence. He publicized the atrocities committed by Haynau, and publicized the names of executed Hungarians as martyrs for freedom.

In September, 1851, Turkey freed the internees. Some returned to Austria under a promised amnesty, but found out that the amnesty did not exempt them from military service and most were promptly placed in the Imperial Army. Turkey offered commissions to any former Hungarian officers who would convert to Islam.

Kossuth set about raising funds to continue the struggle against the Hapsburgs. In Turkey he issued receipts (S131) for a national loan fund. These were intended to circulate as notes and are printed in black, and carry the date of September 1, 1851 and a facsimile signature of Kossuth as governor. Each receipt has its own denomination.

Kossuth and his struggle for Hungarian freedom by then had caught the imagination of the people of the United States. The frigate *Mississippi* arrived at Turkey in September to bring him to America. The ship made triumphant stops in Marseilles, Southampton and London on the way. Everywhere enormous crowds greeted him. While the ship made its way to the United States, the Austrian government expressed its rage at Kossuth and dozens of other Hungarian émigrés by trying them in absentia and hanging them in effigy in a military prison in Pest.

America went agog over Kossuth. When the *Mississippi* passed Jersey City on its way to New York harbor, it was greeted with a 100 gun

salute. Hundreds of thousands of Americans turned out to greet him in New York. Secretary of State Daniel Webster angered the Austrian government by saying that Americans "shall rejoice to see our American model upon the lower Danube, the mountains of Hungary." Kossuth visited President Fillmore at the White House and was the guest of honor at a Congressional banquet. Private medals were issued honoring Kossuth as the George Washington of Hungary (see cover photo).

Kossuth was popular with all classes of Americans, not only officials. His tour was like nothing since Lafayette's triumphal tour. He gave over 600 speeches in the English he had learned from studying Shakespeare while imprisoned by Austria during the 1840's. His broad brimmed soft hat, with its large, black ostrich feather, became so popular that it was known as a kossuth.



Kossuth took advantage of his American tour to raise money for the cause of Hungarian freedom. He set up the Hungarian Fund, which issued notes familiar to every collector of United States obsolete currency. The Hungarian Fund notes (S136-140) are dated 1852 and are usually found in dealers' stocks of notes from New York City. The one dollar note may be the most common obsolete bank notes available and uncirculated specimens can be had for a little as ten dollars. All five denominations portray Kossuth. The three lower denominations show him on the left side of the note, standing with a rolled up sheaf of papers in his right hand, and his trademark hat upon his head. The 50 and 100-dollar notes carry a portrait of his head and shoulders in the center, with him wearing his trademark hat.



An examination of a Hungarian Fund note shows a promise to pay the bearer one year after the establishment of the "Independent Hungarian government." The notes come in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 50 and 100 dollars. The one dollar notes are exceedingly common, the fives only less so. The 50- and 100-dollar denominations are rarer. The notes consisted of three issues: January 1, 1852; February 2, 1852; and July 1, 1852. The third issue consisted of only \$50 and \$100 notes.



A second series of notes were also issued (S141-143). Those 1, 2, and 5 forint notes written in Magyar are often found mixed with dealers' stocks of New York notes, but are more properly associated with Philadelphia,

having been printed there by Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. They are not Hungarian Fund notes, but were issued by the Penzjegy, or Finance Ministry. The collector who takes the time to consult Haxby's *Obsolete Notes of the United States* might be surprised to find none of these notes listed, despite their common status.

In fact, the notes are only listed in *The Standard Catalog of World Paper Money*, under the listings for Hungary (S136-S140 for the Hungarian Fund notes, S141-143 for the other notes). The Hungarian Fund notes

have the signature of L. Kossuth, printed on the \$1, \$2 and \$5 notes, and handwritten on the \$50 and \$100 notes. The Philadelphia notes have printed signature, Kossuth Lajos.

Kossuth departed New York in July, 1852, for London. He and his wife boarded their ship under the name of "Mr. Smith and Lady", fearing Austria might attempt to assassinate him. His visit to England repeated his American experience. He gave hundreds of speeches and raised funds for the cause of Hungarian freedom. He was so popular that over one hundred books and 1,000 articles were written about him in England alone. In contrast to London's welcome of Kossuth, workers at the Barclay brewery beat "Hyena" Haynau while he reviewed its mechanical production line in 1852. Lord Palmerston, the British foreign secretary, offered a perfunctory apology to the outraged Austrian government while saying that there was nothing the British government could do to punish the workers. To underscore where his sympathies lay, he then proceeded to offer Kossuth a warm welcome to England.

In 1860 and 1861, Kossuth sought to issue Penzjegy (Finance Ministry) one, two and five forint notes, signed by him "in the name of the [Hungarian] nation." Kossuth may have been preparing these notes in anticipation that a war between a now-unified Italy and Austria over Austrian-ruled Venetia would present Hungarians with a chance for an uprising; Kossuth was certainly in touch with Count Cavour of Sardinia. This was too much for the Austrian government, which protested to London. Unlike the beating of General Haynau, the British government could not ignore the note printing, and the Bank of England seized and burned the notes. Five or six specimens are reported to have been spared.

Italy and Austria did not go to war. Instead, on June 14, 1866, Prussian Prime Minister Otto von Bismarck instigated war with Austria though Italy allied itself with Prussia. Hungarian émigrés, including Kossuth, formed a Hungarian exile legion to join the fight under Prussia. Once again, the printing press was readied for new Hungarian currency. Kossuth's sons, located in Turin, Italy, had plates prepared for two- and ten-groat, and one-forint denominated State Treasury notes. The plates bore the date July, 1, 1866, and the familiar facsimile signature of their father. Originals of the notes are unknown, and it may be that none were ever printed, as the Austrians were defeated at the decisive battle of Sadowa on July 3, and the Treaty of Prague signed in August. Reprints from the original plates are known.

In the aftermath of the war with Prussia and Italy, the Hapsburgs reinvented their realm as the Austro-Hungarian Empire. They had ceased issuing a separate coinage for Hungary during the 1848 revolt, but reinstated it in 1867. In 1879, a law passed at the express request of Emperor Francis Joseph required all Hungarians living abroad to renew their citizenship every ten years. Kossuth refused to enter an Austro-Hungarian consulate to take an oath of loyalty to a Hapsburg Emperor, and he was stripped of his citizenship in 1890.

Kossuth lived to the age of 92, dying on March 20, 1894, in Turin, Italy. Kossuth's body was turned over to a delegation from Budapest, and despite the absence of any official notice from the government, his funeral there was attended by hundreds of thousands of Hungarians. He had spent 45 years in exile, but had inspired his fellow Hungarians and the rest of the world with his quest for freedom for his homeland. A common Hungarian soldier, forced into the Austrian army, had been flogged for crying out, "Hurrah for Kossuth." Twice more he was flogged for refusing to thank the Austrian officer for the whipping. Finally, he did so, muttering, "My back may belong to the Emperor, but my heart belongs to Kossuth."

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Local News

Long-time Baltimore collector and author **George Fuld** passed away on October 19, 2013. Best known for his groundbreaking book on Civil War tokens he co-authored with his father Melvin, George also published articles on medals, including three in *The Maryland Numismatist*. He was one of the founders of what became the Token and Medals Society (TAMS), and served as its first president and editor. Later he founded the Civil War Token Society (CWTS). He won numerous awards including the ANA's Medal of Merit.



Due to accessibility issues, the **Catonsville Coin Club's** meetings will be held at the Arbutus library at 855 Sulphur Spring Road the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM through the first half of 2014.

At the **Washington Numismatic Society** (WNS) December semi-annual pot-luck dinner, Tom Jurkowsky, Director of Public Affairs at the United States Mint, and Richard A. Peterson, Deputy Director of the U. S. Mint, provided an update of the Mint's programs indicating what has been successful in the past and what is planned for the year ahead. MSNA Editor **Simcha Kuritzky** talked on the Temple Tax in January and Robert Colcock presented two of his short coin videos in February.

The new officers of the **Frederick Coin Club** are Rick Milauskas (President), Troy Moxley (Vice President), Patty Fredericks (Secretary), and Roslyn Torella (Treasurer). They meet the third Tuesday at the West Frederick Middle School, 515 W. Patrick Street at 6:30 PM.

Coin Club Meeting Calendar (most months)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
First				Baltimore
Second	Cambridge, Colonial	Montgomery, West Maryland, Middle River	Belmar, Catonsville	
Third	Colonial (sometimes), Bel Mar	Washington Numis. Soc., Frederick		Baltimore
Fourth	Carroll County	Bowie, Middle River		MSNA Board

Both the **BANC** (Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition) and **Associated Coin Shows** have folded for lack of dealer support. **Middle River Coin Club** has taken over the Associated Coin Show.

The **Montgomery County Coin Club** will have an alternate hobby night on March 11 and dealer Julian Leidman will speak on April 8.

The next meeting of the **MSNA** Board will be at the Whitman Coin Expo on Friday, March 28 at 4:00 PM in the third floor lobby.

FREDERICK COIN and CURRENCY SHOW

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2014

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New Encased Quarters



For the bicentennial of the Battle of Baltimore, MSNA has issued new encased Fort McHenry quarters. The quarters are from Philadelphia, Denver, and San Francisco mints. A set of all 3 mints (the encased design is the same) is \$10; a single P or D mint quarter is \$4; a single S mint is \$4.50. Order them from the editor (add \$1 for postage) or pick them up at the Whitman Coin Expo.

What's Your Sign?

Part Twenty-One: Lettered Pennorama Medals

by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

Last time I wrote about Pennorama medals. Those medals had a distinctive shape. The central design is in a shallow bowl surrounded by a broad rim which is highest inside then tapers down to the edge. The series covered by this column has the same shape, so I assume they were also made by Pennorama. I have yet to see any medals of Cancer, Leo, or Capricorn.

Each sign has the symbol in the center superimposed on a large capital letter which is the first letter of the sign's name in Latin (Libra has a capital cursive L). The name appears at the top, with the sigil on either side (for Taurus there are two sigils on either side). At bottom are the first and last dates for the sign. At top is a small sidewise loop with a triangular loop to attach to a necklace. Each medal is 38mm bronze and weighs around 28 grams but a couple of the medals weigh 31 grams.





Zodiac Sign		Dates
♈	ARIES	MARCH 21 – APRIL 20
♉	TAURUS	APRIL 21 – MAY 21/22
♊	GEMINI	MAY 22 – JUNE 21
♋	CANCER	JUNE 22 – JULY 22
♌	LEO	JULY 23 – AUGUST 22
♍	VIRGO	AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22
♎	LIBRA	SEPTEMBER 24 – OCTOBER 23
♏	SCORPIO	OCTOBER 24 – NOVEMBER 22
♐	SAGITTARIUS	NOVEMBER 23 – DECEMBER 21
♑	CAPRICORN	DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 20
♒	AQUARIUS	JANUARY 21 – FEBRUARY 19
♓	PISCES	FEBRUARY 20 – MARCH 20



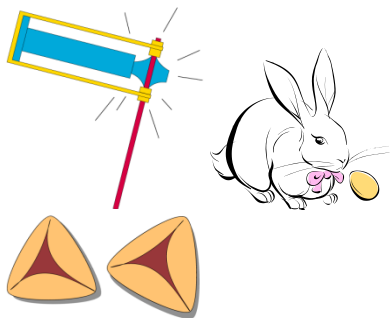
There are three different reverse designs. The most common version has a large asymmetrical sun surrounded by 12 sigils in circles similar to the reverse of last column's Pennorama medals. The second most common design is the same but with a smiling cartoon bull's head with a large ring in its nose, facing left superimposed on the sun.

The last design I've only seen once. A large hollow sun with rays is at top right. Above is a crescent moon and left is a ringed planet. A large five-pointed star is at mid-left. Written on the star is REGISTERED NUMBER. Stamped incuse in my medal above that is 208. At bottom is a long legend in three lines: © THE TALISMAN GUILD / P.O. BOX 8 – PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02901 / DROP IN ANY MAILBOX. RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED.

I have two different Taurus obverses. One has May 21 as the last day (same as Pennorama) with reverse #2 and the other has May 22 with reverse #1. However I also have Gemini medals with reverses #1 and #2, and they both use the May 22 start date, so it looks like the Taurus May 22 is a mistake.



I found another medal with a Pennorama solar system reverse. The sigils and planets on the reverse are the same as on the Pennorama medals shown in the previous issue, but the continents on earth are shown rotated almost 180 degrees. The medal is shiny and white so it may be copper-nickel or it could be chrome-plated bronze. The obverse is like the "Minted Coin" zodiac medals that I will discuss next time.



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Maryland Coin Show Dates

All shows have free admission. Only the Whitman show does not have free parking.

9 Mar. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

27-30 Mar. – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3. *MSNA will sponsor an exhibit competition.*

13 April – Westminster Fire Hall Coin and Currency Show, Westminster Fire Hall, 28 John Street, Westminster, MD; 9-4:30.

4 May – Middle River Coin Club, Middle River Recreation Center, 404 Compass Road (at Martin Blvd.), 9-2.

17 May – Belmar Bi-Annual Coin Show, Grove Church Hall, 50 East Bel Air Avenue, Aberdeen, MD. 9-3.

18 May – Frederick Coin and Currency Show, Elk Lodge #684, 289 Willow Dale Drive, Frederick, MD; 9-4:30.

6-7 June – Frederick County Coin & Currency Show, Grange Hall, 1 South 7th Alley, New Market, MD; 9:30-4:30.

22 June – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

26-29 June – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3. *MSNA will sponsor a Distinguished Scholar lecture Friday.*

24 Aug. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Holiday Inn, 9615 Deereco Road, Timonium, MD; 9-4.

14 Sep. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

4 Oct. – Maryland Tokens And Medals Society (MTAMS) semi-annual swap meet at Grace United Methodist Church, Northern Parkway and Charles St. Baltimore. noon-3PM. Open to the public, but table holders must be members. Contact Ed Craig 410-284-8382 for tables.

5 Oct. – Westminster Fire Hall Coin and Currency Show, Westminster Fire Hall, 28 John Street, Westminster, MD; 9-4:30.

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